



City of Pittsburg

February 8, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Assistance  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Shahla Farahnak  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 "I" Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Comments on the Recommended Additional Grant Awards under Proposition 50, Chapter 8**

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

The partners in the East Contra Costa County (East County) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) strongly support the recommendation made by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to award additional grants under the Proposition 50 Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management program.

East County, like many of the Round 1 - Step 2 applicants, has projects ready to implement that will help achieve regional water management goals and provide statewide benefits, but which need additional funding to proceed. With construction costs escalating rapidly, it is imperative that the State invest as much of the Proposition 50 Chapter 8 funds as possible, as soon as possible, to ensure maximum value from its investment. Holding a second round of competition under Proposition 50 Chapter 8 will not only delay and diminish the benefits from that program, but could result in delayed implementation of the even more significant Proposition 84 IRWM grant program.

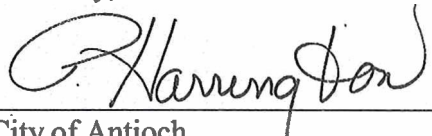
East County faces unique water management challenges due to its relationship with and dependence on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The East County partners have a long history of collaboratively planning and implementing projects to address these challenges. The core document of the East County Functional Equivalent IRWMP, the East County Water Supply Management Study, was approved in 1996. Since then a number of projects identified in that Study and

subsequent planning documents have been successfully implemented including inner-regional water transfers, recycled water projects, emergency interties, shared treatment facilities and development of a habitat conservation plan. Still, much more remains to be done.

Approximately \$500 million in projects were identified in the IRWMP of which approximately \$134 million in high priority projects were included in the grant application. By awarding grant funds to East County now, the State will leverage significant local investments in projects that address regional water management challenges. Grant monies will also help fund projects included in the CALFED Delta Improvement Package. Without these additional grant funds, not only will some East County projects be delayed, but some local funding that is only available for a limited time will be lost, making it more difficult to fully implement the IRWMP.

As stated in our December 8, 2006 letter, the East County partners support the State's programs encouraging development of integrated regional water management plans. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the IRWM grant programs under Propositions 50 and 84 are further developed. If you have any questions, please call Fran Garland, Principal Planner, Contra Costa Water District (925) 688-8312 or any of the undersigned partners.

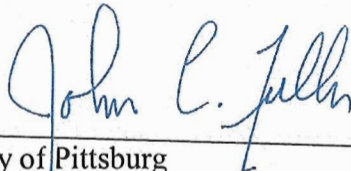
Sincerely,



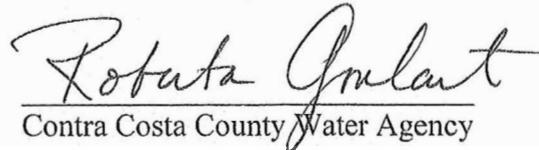
City of Antioch  
Phil Harrington  
Director of Public Works



Diablo Water District  
Mike Yeraka  
General Manager



City of Pittsburg  
John Fuller  
Director of Public Works



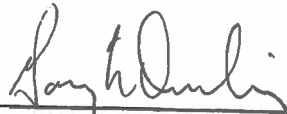
Contra Costa County Water Agency  
Roberta Goulart  
Executive Officer



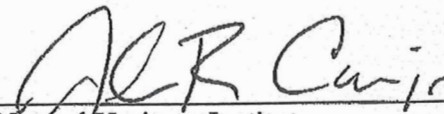
Contra Costa Water District  
Greg Gartrell  
Assistant General Manager



Ironhouse Sanitary District  
Tom Williams  
General Manager



Delta Diablo Sanitation District  
Gary Darling  
General Manager



Natural Heritage Institute  
John Cain  
Director, Restoration Program